UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24293
15 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that the Lebanese Government has decided to request the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which expires on 31 July 1992, for a further period of six months, on the basis of the provisions of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978), 501 (1982), 508 (1982), 509 (1982) and of all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council.

Since the last renewal of UNIFIL, the Government of Lebanon continues to deliver the nation unto a process of normalization and consolidate the peace, national unity and security, which are requisite to lasting stability. In this context, it has set plans for displaced persons, who were forced out by civil strife and insecurity to return to their homes. Furthermore, in conformity with the principles and timetable of the Taif Agreement, the Government has taken the decision to collect all light weapons; a process presently under way in different regions of the country. Equally, the Government has taken the decision to conduct in the coming weeks the nation's first parliamentary elections in 20 years; a step which will revitalize the democratic institutions on which Lebanon was founded.

In addition, my Government is pleased to report that extant perfect coordination between the command of UNIFIL and the Lebanese army resulted in UNIFIL's decision in January 1992 to hand over to the Lebanese army the western part of the Ghanaian battalion sector, enabling UNIFIL to strengthen its deployment elsewhere in its area of operation.

In spite of all these positive achievements by the people and Government of Lebanon to consolidate national unity, Israel, on the contrary, is doing everything in its power to undermine this process. Irrespective of the participation of both countries in the Arab-Israeli Peace Conference, Israel has intensified its efforts to destabilize and terrorize Lebanon. In perpetuating its occupation of the south, Israel subjects Lebanese citizens to daily air raids and bombardments and then in the ensuing cycle of violence blames the innocent victims for a conflict wholly resultant of Israel's 14-year occupation.

Since January of this year, and in spite of Israel's alleged commitment to the ongoing peace process, Lebanon has submitted numerous letters of complaint to the Secretary-General, detailing series of attacks, assaults and raids on Lebanese citizens and properties by the Israeli military and its proxies. Homes and schools have been targeted and destroyed by the Israeli military, whole families have perished under Israeli bombardment, and thousands of villagers have fled in panic and terror due to ultimatums threatening death or imprisonment if they do not evacuate their homes.

The Lebanese Government calls the attention of the Council to Israel's perpetual state of attack against Lebanon, as well as to Israel's flagrant routine incursions beyond the area under its occupation. It implores the Council to take new and vigorous steps to bring an end to Israel's violent reign of terror, through the prompt implementation of its resolution 425 (1978) and the galvanization of its mechanism set out in resolution 426 (1978), which will enable the Lebanese Government to extend its authority over the entire south of the country up to its internationally recognized boundaries.

Due to the interminable and malevolent nature of the Israeli occupation of part of Lebanon, a founding member of the United Nations, the time has come for the Security Council to institute a timetable for the implementation of resolution 425 (1978). At a time when Israel's continued occupation poses a great threat to the peace process, and when the Security Council has crossed great hurdles to demonstrate its clout as the ultimate guarantor of the Charter of the United Nations, no less exigent a response can suffice.

In this context, the presence of UNIFIL continues to remain of utmost necessity to provide much of the needed assistance and international support for the civilian population faced with the brute and arbitrary nature of the Israeli occupation. However, this assistance cannot be a substitute for the fulfilment of UNIFIL's original mandate as stipulated in Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which is to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and to assist the Government of Lebanon, through the Lebanese army and internal security forces, in re-establishing its legitimate and effective authority in the area.

The Lebanese Government takes this opportunity to pay tribute to the UNIFIL command, troops and administrators, and to the troop-contributing countries for their efforts and sacrifices in serving the cause of peace. It also expresses its deep appreciation for the tireless endeavours of the Secretary-General and his assistants, which are instrumental in the valuable presence and mission of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative